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Dated: January 28, 2004 Signature: *E. Thomas Wheeler*
(E. Thomas Wheeler)

Docket No.: 456962000200
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Patent Application of:
Yuhao XU et al.

Application No.: 09/553,990

Art Unit: 1764

Filed: April 20, 2000

Examiner: J. Leung

For: RISER REACTOR FOR FLUIDIZED
CATALYTIC CONVERSION

**AFTER FINAL, EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE**

AMENDMENT

DO NOT ENTER

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

8AL
2/12/04

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated November 25, 2003 (Paper No. 11142003) in which claims 1-8 (all of the claims in the application) were finally rejected. This response is filed within two months of the issuance of the final Office Action and therefore qualifies for expedited review. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 9-16 have been added by this amendment. Withdrawal of the finality of the rejection is requested. Allowance of the pending claims is also respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the Finality of the Rejection

Applicants request withdrawal of the finality of this rejection as premature. Each of the rejections based upon 35 USC 102 or 103 in the noted Office Action apply a reference not earlier applied against the claims. The Office Action suggests that such finality is proper because of "[a]pplicant's amendment." This is not correct.